

Message Text

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64

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 AID-20 L-03 EB-11 PA-04 PRS-01

USIA-15 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /095 W

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R 260100Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8268

INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA

USUN NEW YORK 330

AMEMBASSY SUVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L WELLINGTON 1988

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNDP: APER, WS

SUBJECT: UNDP ORDERED OUT OF WESTERN SAMOA

REFS A. WELLINGTON 1227 (NOTAL)

B. STATE 081272 (NOTAL)

C. SELDEN/SNEIDER (EA) CORRESPONDENCE

1. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE (REFTELS) FAILURE OF UNDP TO RENEW CONTRACT OF WILLIAM B HUSSEY AS REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR WESTERN PACIFIC WITHOUT PRIOR CONSULTATIONS WITH GOVERNMENT WESTERN SAMOA, PROMPTED PRIME MINISTER OF WESTERN SAMOA, MATA'AFU, TO SEND AN ULTIMATUM TO UNDP ADMINISTRATOR RUDOLPH PETERSON DEMANDING THAT HUSSEY'S CONTRAC BE RENEWED. THE PRIME MINISTER STATED IN HIS MESSAGE TO PETERSON THAT IF HUSSEY WAS NOT ALLOWED TO CONINUE THEN UNDP COULD START LOOKING FOR ANOTHER VENUE FOR ITS REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS BECAUSE QUOTE I DO NOT WISH TO SEE ANY MORE UN HEADQUARTERS HERE END QUOTE.

2. HUSSEY'S CONTRACT ENDED ON APRIL 30 AND WAS NOT RENWED. SINCE THAT TIME HUSSEY HAS REMAINED IN WESTERN SAMOA ENSCONCED IN THE REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE'S HOME AS THE GUEST OF THE WESTERN SAMOAN GOVERNMENT AND HE HAS PURSUED A VIGOROUS AREA-WIDE CAMPAIGN INCLUDING SEVERAL
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LETTERS TO THIS EMBASSY IN WHICH HE HAS ATTEMPTED MAINATIN

UNDP REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS IN WESTERN SAMOA AS WELL AS TO RETAIN HIS UNDP POSITION.

3. ON MAY 15 ADMINISTRATOR PETERSON WROTE TO PRIME MINISTER MATA'afa STATING THAT THERE WOULD BE NO EXTENSION OF MR. HUSSEY'S SERVICES. IN REPLY ON MAY 80 THE PRIME MINISTER INFORMED THE UNDP THAT QUOTE AFTER VERY CAREFUL CONSIDERATION MY GOVERNMENT GIVES YOU TWO MONTHS AS FROM THE DATE OF THIS CABLE TO REMOVE YOUR OFFICE FROM APIA. THIS DECISION IS FINAL. END QUOTE. THE STORY WAS ANNOUNCED FOR THE FIRST TIME ON NEW ZEALAND RADIO ON MONDAY, JUNE 24.

4. THE CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER, WHO HAS JUST RETURNED FROM APIA, TELLS ME THAT THE ULTIMATUM HAS CREATED AN UPROAR AND THAT HIS ADVICE TO HIS AND THOSE OTHER GOVERNMENTS WHO HAVE NATIONALS IN WESTERN SAMOA WITH THE UNDP IS TO STAY OUT OF THIS IMBROGLIO.

5. THE PRESS REPORTS TODAY THAT MR. RAY FORT, AMERICAN ACTING UNDP REPRESENTATIVE IN APIA, HAS STATED THAT ALL STAFF WILL LEAVE WESTERN SAMOA BY THE DEADLINE DATE OF JULY 30 FOR TEMPORARY HEADQUARTERS IN MANILA UNTIL ANOTHER PERMANENT SOUTH PACIFIC BASE CAN BE FOUND.

FYI: THERE IS SOME EVIDENCE THAT FIJI MAY BECOME THE PERMANENT VENUE OF THE UNDP OPERATION. IT IS BELIEVED THAT ADMINISTRATOR PETERSON HAS FOR SOME TIME FAVORED THE FIJIAN LOCATION DUE TO SUPERIOR ACCESS TO THE OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE REGION AS COMPARED TO APIA. END FYI.
SELDEN

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